I. *An Account of the Diſſection of a Child. Communicated in a Letter to Dr.* Brook Taylor, *R. S. Secr. By Dr.* Patrick Blair, *R. S. S.*

AS nothing is more apt to lead us to the Knowledge of the ſeveral Diſtempers which affect the Human Body, and to acquaint us with the juſt Prognoſticks of the like Caſes, than the opening of diſtemper'd Perſons. I hop'd it would not be an unacceptable inſtance of my Zeal and Readineſs to ſerve the Moſt Honourable the *Royal Society* upon all occaſions, to deſire you to preſent them with the following account of the Diſſection I lately made of a Child.

This Child was five Months old, and was ſo emaciated, that he appear'd rather to have decreaſed, than to have encreaſed in Bulk, from the time of his Birth; his whole Body not weighing above five Pounds. The Skin and Muſcles of the Abdomen were very thin, but the Peritoneum was preternaturally thick. The Ventriculus was more like to an Inteſtin than to a Stomach, its length being five Inches, and its breadth but one Inch. The Coats of it were thick and fleſhy, and the Cavity very inconſiderable. The Pylorus, and almoſt half of the Duodenum were Cartilaginous, and ſomething inclin'd to an Oſſification, ſo that no Nouriſhment could have paſſed into the Inteſtins, tho' the Stomach had been capable of containing it, which makes it no Wonder that the Body was ſo emaciated. There were ſcarce any foot-ſteps of the Omentum to be ſeen, even at the Bottom of the Stomach, to which it uſually adheres.

The

The right Lobe of the Lungs adhered firmly to the Ribs and had three Exulcerations, which contain'd purulent Matter. It was ſo very thin and compact, that it ſeem'd as if that Lobe had never been of uſe in Reſpiration. The left Lobe was of a more florid Red, ſpongy, and free from any Adheſion.

Upon enquiring after the Symptoms this Child had been affected with, his Mother told me, he ſeem'd to be healthy till he was about a Month old, when he was ſeized with a violent Vomiting, and a Stoppage of Urine and Stool. Some time after, both theſe became more regular, but the Vomiting ſtill continued. He ſeem'd to have a great Appetite, taking what Suck, Drink, or other Food was offer'd him, with a kind of eagerneſs; but he immediately threw it all up again. He had all along breathed freely, and had no Cough, notwithſtanding the Exulcerations above mention'd. This confirm'd me in the Opinion that he had never Breath'd, by the right Lobe of the Lungs.

There could be nothing more emaciated than this Child was; and it ſeems to be worth conſidering, whether his Illneſs might not be owing in a great meaſure to the want of the Omentum, (for he ſeem'd never to have had any); as alſo, whence it is that this Part is generally conſum'd in an Atrophy, and in moſt Hydropical Caſes, except where it ſelf is more eſpecially concerned.